Indian Airlines will be receiving 12 Airbus A-320 aircraft, presently on order, during 1993-94.

Extension of Air India cargo service to Africa

461. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to extend Air India Cargo service to transport vegetables and flowers to African countries;

(b) if so, the details of the centres from where the Air India Cargo service will be operated;

(c) whether any places in Madhya Pradesh have been identified for extention of this facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Expansion of tourism in the country

462. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made to create better conditions for expansion of tourism in the country during the last three years, and

(b) what are the details of these efforts in regard to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Department of Tourism during the last three years have extended more financial assistance for augmentation of tourism infrastructure in the country and has taken effective steps for promoting tourism from the tourist generating markets abroad.

(b) Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 566.14 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, which includes construction of 2 Yatri Niwases, 1 Yatrika, 6 Tourist Bungalow, 6 Tourist lodges, 7 Wayside facilities, 1 Tourist Complex and 1 Tourist Reception Centre. Financial assistance has also been extended for development of adventure sports, camping tourism, flood-lighting and publicity etc.

Creation of posts in Air India

463. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional top posts in Air India are being created;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether about one thousand posts of low paid employees are lying vacant; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No proposals in this regard have been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) About 800 posts in categories 'C' and 'D' are vacant and action to fill these posts is being taken as per the recruitment rules.

Tourism Development Action Plan

464. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 922 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the action plan to encourage tourism; if so, the details thereof;